(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Karnataka has requested him to grant adequate level of export subsidy to make exports of sugar possible from Karnataka;

(b) whether a report has been called for from the Directorate of Sugar in this regard; and

(c) the time frame for grant of export subsidy to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Extension of Annapoorna Yojana

3017. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal to the Central Government seeking amendment to the existing Annapoorna Yojana to cover supply of foodgrains to the destitute persons of 65 years and above;

(b) what is the present stage of consideration of the proposal; and

(c) by when a decision is expected in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for modifying the 'Annapurna Scheme' had been received when the Scheme was being administered as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) The scheme along with National Social Assistance Programme has been transferred to the State Plan with effect from the financial year 2002-2003. The funds for the transferred schemes are now being released as additional Central Assistance to the State Plan and the State/UTs have the requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the Schemes.